

**Emergency Alert System (EAS)  
Plan for the  
Northeast Minnesota EAS Operational Area**

October 4, 2000

**Includes the following Counties:**

Koochiching, Itasca, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Pine, Carlton, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide procedures agreed upon by the broadcast industry and local area governments which will permit those officials and their designated representatives to request activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to issue emergency information and instructions in threatened or actual emergencies.

## **I. Introduction**

This plan was prepared by the Northeast Minnesota Local EAS Team (NE MN LEAST). It is used to disseminate emergency information and warning to the general public in the Northeast MN Local EAS Area or any portion thereof within the broadcast coverage and cable system service areas at the request of designated local state and federal officials. This EAS Local Area plan may be activated on a day-to-day basis in response to emergencies such as tornadoes, floods, civil disorders, nuclear power plant accidents, toxic leaks or any occurrence which poses a danger to life or property. Acceptance of/or participation in this plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee or cable operator from exercising their independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems originating emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. The concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system to exercise discretion regarding the transmission of emergency information and instructions to the general public is provided by the FCC Rules.

## II. Authority

Title 47 U.S.C., 151,154(i)& to), 304 (r), 524(g) & 606; and 47 C. F. R. Part 11, FCC Rules & Regulations, Emergency Alert System.

The agencies listed below are the only sources authorized by the MnEast to originate an EAS notification for the emergency types listed. In the event of equipment failure, other organizations not listed may be requested to encode an EAS alert, the order to begin an local EAS alert may be issued only by these agencies:

Emergency	Authorized	Conditions/exceptions
Weather-related Emergency	National Weather Service	
Technological Emergency	*Public Safety Officials	
Civil Emergency	*Chief elected officials *Public safety officials	May only originate for civil emergencies within the bounds of their jurisdictions.

\*For technological and civil emergencies that cross or have the potential to cross jurisdictional boundaries, EAS alerts should be coordinated between the affected jurisdictions.

## III. Key EAS Sources

A table of all EAS dissemination points can be found in Table 1 of Appendix A.

## IV. Procedures

All weather-related EAS alerts will be originated and disseminated from the National Weather Service in Duluth, MN and be transmitted over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) stations KIG-64 at 162.55 Mhz located in Duluth or WXX-45 at 162.55 Mhz located in Littlefork. See Appendix D for NWR coverage in the local area.

Non-weather-related events will be originated by local authorities, who, in turn, will either disseminate the alert via point to point frequency, local communications systems, or request that the NWS disseminate it via NOAA Weather Radio. Guidelines and procedures for the dissemination of EAS alerts are found in Appendix E. Appendix B also contains a list of agencies/positions in each county authorized to initiate EAS messages.

## V. Codes

An EAS notification is sent from an origination point in the form shown below:

ZCZC- ORG-EEE-PSSCCC+TTTT-JJHHMM-LLLLLLLL

aural, visual or text message

NNNN

The following is a breakdown of the codes:

ZCZC:	Start of the ASCII code. This is automatically sent by encoder.
ORG:	Originator code, preset by the encoder user, then sent automatically by the encoder. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>WXR- National Weather Service</li><li>CIV- Authorized local authorities/agencies</li><li>EAS- All broadcasters and cable operators.</li></ul>
EEE:	Event Code. See Annex B of the State Plan for a list of Event Codes.
PSSCCC:	County Location Code. See Appendix B for a list of County Location Codes.

JJHHMM: Date and Time of Day of the alert; automatically sent by encoder.

LLLLLLL: The L-Code: See Annex B of the State Plan for an explanation of this code.

NNNN: End-of-Message Code.